



**Washington School for the Deaf**

**April 24, 2009**

## **Middle School News**

### **Social Studies**

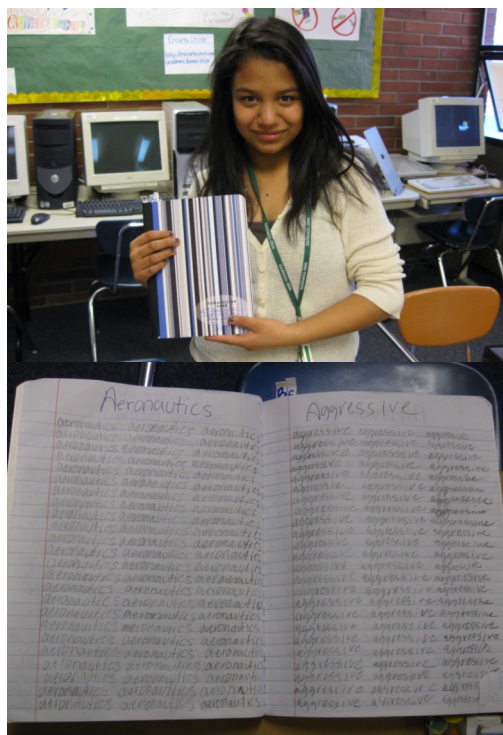
8th grade students need to bring photographs of themselves at various times in their lives. They can be posed with friends and family members. The photos will be scanned and returned. They will be included in the Commencement slideshow.

5th and 6th grade students need to bring an oatmeal container by May 11th. They are making time capsules.

### **Writing**

5th/6th a read through poetry books this week, reading and discussing poems they like. 5th/6th b began analyzing poetry by reading and watching poems in English and ASL, discussing what they noticed and what they liked. 7th/8th a began their self-portrait poetry anthologies this week. They selected five poems that represent their lives in some way and began writing narratives about why they chose each poem. They will continue working on this project through next week. 7th/8th b learned how to change something ordinary into something poetic. Did you know you CAN write a poem about a safety pin or a pair of scissors? Imagine the possibilities.

The Fingerspelling Bee is fast approaching and students are studying and practicing hard! Mariapaz created a Fingerspelling Bee Journal. She says that writing the words over and over helps her to visualize them in her head while she is spelling. Way to go, Mariapaz!



### **Reading**

7th/8th B is learning how artists express their passion through famous pieces (murals, sculptures, etc) & they studied synonyms & antonyms. 7th/8th A worked on key vocabulary & are learning about prefixes & suffixes. 5th/6th A continues to study George Washington & the Revolutionary War. Ask your child about G.W.'s teeth! 5th/6th B is reading a nonfiction story called 'Planet Earth Inside Out'.

### **Upcoming Events:**

**May 6**  
**7/8 Biztown**  
**May 25 Memorial Day**  
**No School**  
**May 29**  
**Fingerspelling Bee**  
**June 5**  
**8th Grade Commencement**

# Tips for Parents

## Fingerspelling Bee Study Strategies

- Divide words into parts/syllables
- Arrange words in crossword puzzle fashion
- Use flashcards
- Identify the base/root of words
- Form words using Scrabble game letter tiles

\*\*\*These are some of the strategies we noticed while watching the movie "Spellbound." Students are encouraged to discover their own strategies and methods and to practice them regularly.



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## Questions? Comments? Concerns?

Write us a note and send it back with your child.

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